

SENATE BILL 2888
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3,
relative to economic development.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

4-3-734.

(a) The department shall create a business development program designed to encourage socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in starting, maintaining, and enhancing business opportunities. The program shall be modeled on the small business administration's 8(a) business development program, as found in 13 C.F.R. § 124 et seq. and shall include eligibility criteria, certification standards, and accountability measures. The program shall be geared towards assisting individuals who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias because of identity as a member of a group, and individuals whose ability to compete in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities. The program shall function as a vehicle through which state contract opportunities may be made available to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

(b)

Participants in the program shall be small businesses unconditionally owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who are of good character and citizens of the United States, and which demonstrate potential for success. A participant must be at least fifty- one percent (51%) unconditionally and directly owned by one (1) or more socially and

economically disadvantaged individuals who are citizens of the United States, and may be a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other individually owned business.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.